

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **With 41 Years of Transforming City's Neighborhoods, The Architectural Team, Inc., Announces Sponsorship of Student Design Competition for Boston Architectural College**

*Best known for master planning, waterfront development, multifamily housing and historic preservation and adaptive reuse, the Boston-area firm is sponsoring a new competition called **TRANSFORMING BOSTON'S NEIGHBORHOODS: THE FUTURE OF MULTIFAMILY HOUSING** "to engender collaborative, interdisciplinary and creative design thinking for innovative, green, intergenerational living environments."*

**CHELSEA, MASS., August 10, 2012** – The nationally regarded, award-winning architecture and master-planning firm, The Architectural Team, Inc., has announced plans to celebrate its 41 years in business by supporting an annual student design competition, **TRANSFORMING BOSTON'S NEIGHBORHOODS**, to be integrated into the curriculum of the Boston Architectural College (BAC).

The new course competition, sponsored by The Architectural Team, invites undergraduate architecture students to envision the future of Boston. Conceived as an "open ideas design competition," **TRANSFORMING BOSTON'S NEIGHBORHOODS: THE FUTURE OF MULTIFAMILY HOUSING** will encourage critical design approaches to enhance the vitality and effect of livable, affordable, multifamily housing strategies for the future in downtown Boston.

"This new competition aims to build on our belief that engaging in creative efforts with our local communities can create innovative and affordable living environments for all people," says The Architectural Team's cofounder and managing principal, Robert J. Verrier, FAIA, president of the BAC's Alumni Board. "The goal is to continue the successful transformation of our dense urban landscape into a supportive environment from which we can all benefit without compromising the unique historic attributes of the city and surrounding neighborhoods."

The BAC and The Architectural Team developed the **TRANSFORMING BOSTON'S NEIGHBORHOODS** competition to engage students in real-world, urban design challenges. "The competition's spirit and program will focus on encouraging multidisciplinary, imaginative ideas for our urban future," Verrier adds.

The competition name has been changed recently to better reflect the rationale for the competition and course, which is comprehensive in nature and focuses on multifamily housing, not single-family homes. In addition, said the firm, the competition is about the large-scale reimagining housing in Boston.

## Honoring four decades of service

The announcement of the new Boston Architectural College course competition coincides with The Architectural Team's celebration of 40 years in business in 2011, as well as Verrier's elevation to Fellow of the American Institute of Architects this year.

To celebrate the firm's anniversary and to contribute directly to the development of young architects, The Architectural Team reached out to the BAC to collaborate on a new design studio and student competition. As current president of the BAC Alumni Association and an active board member for six years, Verrier has strived to maintain a strong collaborative partnership with the College to help prepare future architects.

"The Architectural Team has long been committed to educating emerging generations of socially committed designers. This program reflects the firm's belief that leadership in our profession includes entering rigorous competitions that generate work on behalf of those who might not ordinarily receive the benefit of services from our best designers," says Ted Landsmark, president of BAC.

"We're delighted to be working with The Architectural Team on this competition," Landsmark added.

The name TRANSFORMING BOSTON'S NEIGHBORHOODS was suggested as an umbrella for "housing concepts that investigate

## The Architectural Team, at a Glance

Founded in 1971 as Boston Architectural Team, the firm changed its name in 1984 to reflect a growing geographic presence. Today, the firm has ...

- Employed a staff of 65 professionals.
- Completed more than 500 projects providing more than 75,000 units of multifamily housing around the U.S.
- Completed more than 80 built projects in the Boston area.
- Worked in more than 20 states.

The firm has also received **92 industry design awards**. Of those, 47 awards related to **historic preservation** or adaptive reuse.

- The firm has designed more than 150 historic adaptive-reuse projects.
- Architects employed by the firm **have** mentored more than 250 co-op internship students.

The Architectural Team's most notable Boston Projects:

- Battery Wharf
- Baker Chocolate Factory
- Building 114
- Commercial Wharf
- Franklin Square House
- Kenmore Abbey
- San Marco/Lincoln Wharf
- West End Place

dialogues including engagement of internal and external socio-economic diversity, adaptability over time, public/private spatial connectivity, and the permanence and impermanence of materials,” says firm principal Michael Binette, AIA.

The competition is also designed to recognize sustainable thinking, demonstrating that architecture can perform various functions beyond those conventionally associated with residential buildings. “Accordingly, design submissions must be environmentally responsible while fostering inventive conceptual living solutions for today and tomorrow,” adds Binette. “Although proposals should be technologically feasible, they may also suggest fantastical architectural visions of a sustainable residential future.”

The competition, juried by BAC-selected members of Boston’s architectural design community, will offer a \$2,500 cash prize for the winning entry. The prize has been donated by The Architectural Team, a portion of the firm’s \$5,000 donation to fund the inaugural course. The first winner of the inaugural TRANSFORMING BOSTON’S NEIGHBORHOODS competition will be announced in December 2012.

Since its inception, The Architectural Team has contributed to the education and training of over 250 young architects through an active commitment to a program of student internship co-op training. Many of those students have spent their entire careers at TAT, and ultimately have become an essential part of the fabric of the firm.

### **Mentoring the next generation of architects**

“Our motivation for engaging students is practical. Students learn by doing,” says Verrier. “When we mentor, we shape a new generation of practitioners by transferring our knowledge, and providing them with the experience across the entire process of creating buildings, which has immeasurable value. In this capacity, students develop critical skills necessary to build cost-effective, well-designed, quality projects—whether it’s affordable housing, community centers or luxury waterfront developments.”

In addition to the course competition, Verrier and TAT senior project manager, Mark Rosenshein, are involved with the BAC’s “Gateway Project” – a learning and mentoring program designed to assist students in increasing their practical hands-on knowledge of the design and construction industries while leveraging the expertise of practicing architects. Programs like the Gateway Project and the BAC course competition reinforce The

Architectural Team's commitment to mentoring and teaching about architecture. The benefits extend not only to students of all ages but also to graduates and professionals just getting their start in the field.

The BAC course competition also reflects the four decades of work by The Architectural Team that has dramatically developed and revitalized numerous Boston neighborhoods with a broad range of new buildings and area plans.

Most recently, the firm designed **The Kensington**, a major new luxury 27 story, 381 unit, high-rise apartment building, currently under construction, located at the confluence of Boston's financial district, theatre district and Chinatown. Other recent projects include the **Battery Wharf** waterfront project, a major mixed-use commercial waterfront project that is now a cornerstone of a rapidly growing "lifestyle" neighborhood in Boston's North End; The Homes at Old Colony in South Boston, Mass., involving the redevelopment of one of the country's old and most distressed public housing developments into a new, 285 unit sustainable multifamily housing community. Phase One was completed in March 2012. Phase Two will break ground in the fall; and the Baker Chocolate Factory complex—an historic adaptive reuse development that was 25 years in the making, and involved converting eight existing mill buildings into a new, 318 unit, mixed-income housing community. Which consequently has precipitated the urban revitalization of the surrounding Lower Mills area including new commercial activity in the form of restaurants, shopping areas, retail shops and luxury residential developments.

In addition to its extensive residential portfolio, the firm has also completed recent work in the healthcare sector and is credited with a number of firsts in Boston.

As master planners, The Architectural Team, in consultation with Linea 5 Architects, proposed a four-building master plan for a mixed-use neighborhood redevelopment on a large, prominent site in Boston's **Longwood Medical Area**. The master plan envisaged the redevelopment of the abandoned state mental health facility located in Mission Hill between the Brigham and Women's Hospital campus and the Riverway. TAT and Linea collaborated on three new state-of-the-art buildings to include: the Binney Building, a clinical office building; the Fenwood Inn - a mental health day hospital—and an affordable residential building for Roxbury Tenants of Harvard. The Binney Building and Fenwood Inn have been completed early in the project, while the residential building is currently in design development. "This type of urban revitalization option can be strategic from the points of view of both planning

and land use because it allows for programmatic juxtapositions that might previously have been considered infeasible,” says Michael Liu, AIA, project architect and principal at The Architectural Team.

In 2007, the firm completed one of the first modern examples of mixed-use, transit-oriented development (TOD). **The Carruth** was designed for both market-rate condominiums and affordable rentals, while also serving as an organizing central structure to bring coherence and efficiency to the inter-modal nexus of bus, train and trolley. Urban Land Institute recently named The Carruth as a finalist in its 2012 Global Excellence Awards competition. Winners will be announced in September. And in 2011, **The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Community Center** located in Dorchester, Mass, open its doors to an anxiously awaiting public. The new Center restored a long-neglected neighborhood, replacing empty lots and derelict buildings with an engaging, new intergenerational 90,000 square foot facility offering recreational, art and educational, social and spiritual programs, and is New England’s largest social services facility to date

While The Architectural Team is capitalizing on its anniversary to renew its commitment to using urban planning and architectural design to address social and economic challenges, this has been a recurring theme in the firm’s work throughout New England and in over 20 other states throughout the country, with the majority of work located along the East Coast.

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#### **About The Architectural Team, Inc.**

Founded in 1971, The Architectural Team, Inc. is a 65-person master planning and architectural firm that has grown through its design excellence and commitment to responsive and collaborative client relationships. The firm has developed a portfolio of distinctive design solutions for a broad range of building types and programs, and has earned more than 90 awards for design excellence. These include the new construction of large urban mixed-use developments, multifamily residential, commercial, hospitality, recreational, and academic facilities, as well as a national reputation in the area of historic preservation and adaptive reuse. The firm is located in the restored 1840s-era Commandant’s House in Chelsea, Mass. Visit the firm’s website at [www.architecturalteam.com](http://www.architecturalteam.com).